

11-9389

24 NOV 1959

Mrs. Ruth Donovan

Dear Ruth:

I am attaching a copy of an article which was written by Nat Finney and appeared in the Buffalo Evening News of 14 November reporting on the cornerstone laying for the CIA building.

Nat points out the great part played by Bill leading up to this event and I thought you might like to have this for your memoirs.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Attachment:

O/DCI [] :rad 23 Nov 59

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STAT

No Successes, No Failures and Unsung Heroes—Dedicated, Selfless People Are 'Spies' for America

By NAT S. FINNEY

Buffalo Evening News Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 — "Success cannot be advertised; failure cannot be explained. In the work of intelligence, heroes are often undecorated and unsung, often even among their own fraternity."

The words are President Eisenhower's, but the essence of the thoughts behind them—"dedication, ability, trustworthiness, selflessness"—was distilled by the greatest "captain" Buffalo produced in this century, the late Gen. William J. Donovan.

President Eisenhower spoke the words into the crisp autumnal air of the Virginia countryside, where, within eye-shot of the Potomac, a monument is rising to Gen. Donovan's deep certainty that to live in today's stressful world America must know and understand that world.

THE PRESIDENT set the cornerstone of Gen. Donovan's monument, the new Central Intelligence Agency's headquarters building at Langley, and the copper box inside the cornerstone contains the proofs of Gen. Donovan's inspirations.

A copy of Gen. Donovan's memorandum for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, dated Nov. 18, 1944, and containing the first recommendation for permanent establishment of a central intelligence authority to take over the wartime work of the Office of Strategic Services.

A copy of President Roosevelt's memorandum to Gen. Donovan, dated April 5, 1945 (seven days before FDR's death) directing Gen. Donovan to call together the chiefs of foreign intelligence and internal security units in the various executive agencies to get their suggestions for a central intelligence service.

CIA Director Allen Dulles, address on "William J. Donovan and the National Security" delivered May 4, 1959, to the Erie County Bar Association, Buffalo.

OTHER DOCUMENTS in the copper box complete the record of Gen. Donovan's realization of his dream of an American intelligence service adequate to the responsibilities of a nation come of age as a world power.

The CIA's debt to Gen. Donovan was acknowledged in another way when President Eisenhower laid the cornerstone of its vast new headquarters.

Lawrence Houston and Robert Murphy, dear friends and old associates of Gen. Donovan drove out through the brilliant autumn foliage to Leesburg, Va., to personally escort their chief's widow, Mrs. William J. Donovan, from her Leesburg home to the ceremonies at Langley.

MR. HOUSTON is general counsel to the CIA, with service dating from the wartime OSS days. Mr. Murphy's retirement as deputy undersecretary of state has just been announced. He served with Gen. Donovan in Africa and Italy during World War II.

Mrs. Donovan sat with the President and Director Dulles during the ceremony.

The building that is rising on the 140-acre tract just

Donovan Saw Peacetime Need

GEN. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN perceived the need for post-war intelligence on Nov. 18, 1944, in a recommendation to President Roosevelt that a Central Intelligence Agency be established to succeed OSS. He wrote:

"Once our enemies are defeated the demand will be equally pressing for information that will aid us in solving the problems of peace."

"Though in the midst of war, we are also in a period of transition which, before we are aware, will take us into the tumult of readjustment. An adequate and orderly intelligence system will contribute to informed decisions."

"We have now in the Government the trained and specialized personnel needed for the task. This talent should not be dispersed."

north of Washington will provide approximately 1,000,000 square feet of space in the agency's headquarters and cost over \$100,000,000.

Inside special security fencing, it is in effect a high security repository for what Director Dulles called "better information from the four corners of the earth and for sound analysis of that information."

THERE IS very little of the cloak and dagger atmosphere that Gen. Donovan reached even though in private conference he put greater emphasis upon the systematic collection of information and upon scholarly analysis of emerging data.

Important as are the assets of countless intelligence agents in contact with the cold war enemy, system and know-how were the heart of intelligence for Gen. Donovan and the essence of his dream was an agency that could apply system and know-how to all the information America could get.

About the Central Intelligence Agency's people little was said at the cornerstone ceremony for the agency's home—and that would have suited Gen. Donovan very well, indeed.

YET IN THE shadow of the agency's handsome new headquarters a good deal can be guessed at, and all of it was central to Gen. Donovan's concept on what his country had to do to stay strong.

At desks in the new building there will be people familiar with strange languages and customs and the histories and attitudes of faraway places with strange sounding names.

At institutes connected with universities, here and abroad, there will be more people learning the things that must be learned to fill in the gaps in American knowledge and savvy. There will be desks waiting for these people at Langley when they are trained.

The Central Intelligence Agency is part of the complex of departments within the Federal Government that

are responsible for the security of the nation. There must be close relationship between diplomatic, military, and other elements of foreign policy.

* * *

WITHIN THIS area, the Central Intelligence Agency is the organization which insures that the information flowing to the President and his principal advisers on foreign policy—the National Security Council—is consistent and complete; and which brings together the judgment of intelligence officers in all departments on the major issues of fact and interprets them for the benefit of the President and the National Security Council.

Director Dulles constantly studies the intelligence structure of the government to determine that each part is properly geared to the national intelligence effort. His responsibility requires solution of problems common to large governmental agencies, while coping with an additional problem of secrecy common to few other agencies.

* * *

BECAUSE OF this secrecy—required by law and by considerations of national safety—Central Intelligence does not confirm or deny stories in the press whether good or bad; never alibis; never explains its organization; never identifies its personnel (except for the few in the top echelons); and will not discuss its budget, its method of operations, or its sources of information.

This is an agency that cannot operate in a goldfish bowl. The general public is expected to accept the fact that Central Intelligence Agency career personnel are competent, skilled, patriotic individuals whose first aim in life is the security of our country.

* * *

APPLICANTS for Central Intelligence Agency employment are given a full security investigation after they have been approved, following preliminary tests. Out of every 1000 applications, some 80% are screened out by the personnel officials; the remaining 20% are turned over to security agencies for investigation.

Of this 20%, some 11% are eliminated as a result of security investigation because they drink too much, talk too much, have relatives behind the Iron Curtain which may make the applicants subject to foreign pressure; for serious security reasons, 4% of this 11% are screened out. These latter are individuals who have contacts that render them undesirable for service in this highly sensitive agency.

* * *

THERE HAS BEEN congressional debate on some of the agency's powers to secrecy, notably that concerning the budget, but the Central Intelligence Agency Act gives the director authority to expend funds "without regard to the provisions of law and regulations relating to the expenditure of funds," on a voucher certified by him alone.

Another extraordinary authority granted to the director is that allowing him to approve the entry into the United States of certain aliens and their families.

The nature of the agency's work would seem to justify such powers.

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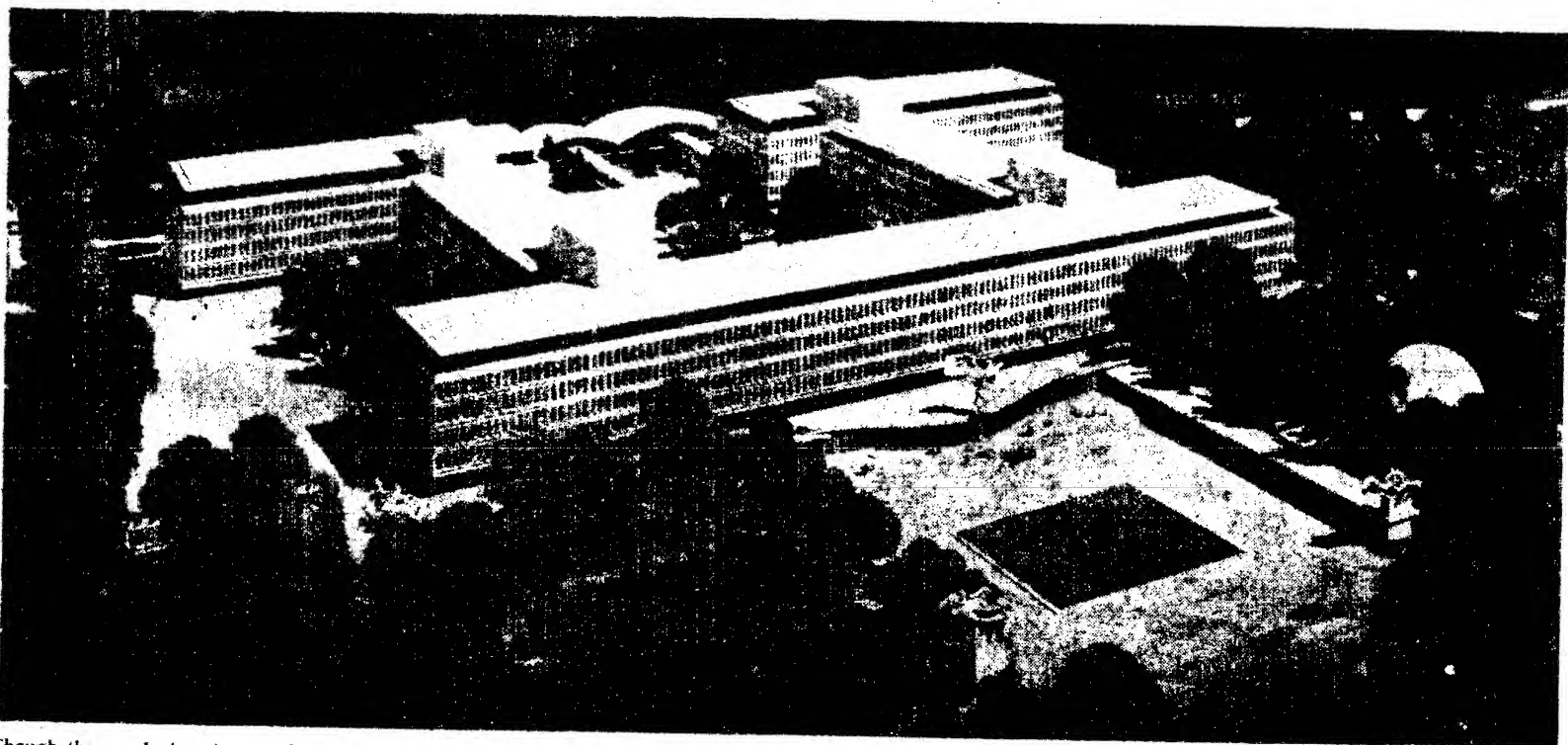
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Though the word almost never is used in official quarters, what is perhaps the world's greatest "spy" system will be quartered in this new Central Intelligence Agency Building on the south bank of the Potomac. The 8-story building is expected to be completed in August or September, 1961.

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Dear Celebrity:

I am a veteran collector of famous autographs and would like very much to add your signature to my collection of over 3,500 signed letters, pictures and cards. My collection dates back to 1825 and includes autographs of a wide vareity of outstanding persons from all imaginable fields. The present value of my collection, which I started in 1945, is worth more than \$2,500.00.

I have followed your interesting career for sometime and feel strongly that my collection would never be complete without your signature. Thus, I would be greatly honored to include your manuscript in my sortite. I would appreciate you signing the in-closed cards and returning same to me in the provided self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Believe me, I know how valuable your time must be and I hope this request isn't too much trouble. If at all possible I would treasure a personally autographed picture. Many thanks for your time in this matter, I am looking forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Aaron W. Dodek

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AWD/fdd.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

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ER-
One card signed & mailed

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- Autograph Letters - Manuscripts - Photographs - Historical Documents -